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EXCOM 82-7057  
19 November 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Committee Members

FROM:

[redacted]  
Executive Assistant to the DDCI

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SUBJECT:

Minutes of 5 November 1982 Executive Committee Meeting: 1) PCP Status Report; 2) Information Handling

1. The Executive Committee met on 5 November 1982 for the semiannual PCP (Priority Collection Projects) status report and a follow-up session on the proposed information handling strategic plan. [redacted] chaired the session; participants included Messrs. Stein (DDO); Fitzwater (DDA); Gates (DDI); Hineman (DDS&T); and Taylor (IG). [redacted]

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2. PCP Status Report: Mr. Kerr, Chairman of the PCP Panel, updated the Committee on the four PCPs. [redacted]

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5. Mr. Kerr concluded that the number of PCPs was about right. At some point, the directed energy PCP should be moved off the list and covered by more traditional means. On the question of an NIO for PCPs, Mr. Gates noted that an NIO may be established for science and technology, and that person could handle the PCPs as an additional duty. Mr. Kerr noted in some cases, DDO might not be as forthcoming if there were more community involvement in the PCPs. [redacted]

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6. Information Handling: [redacted] emphasized the complexity and importance of information handling to all facets of the Agency's business. He noted that 75 percent of the proposed information handling plan was already incorporated in the budget. He therefore suggested that the Committee could endorse the basic thrust of the plan as a sensible blueprint for the future. Because information handling planning is integral to all aspects of Agency activity and constitutes such a large portion of Agency dollars and manpower resources, he also proposed placing it in the Executive Director's Planning Staff. [redacted]

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7. Acknowledging security concerns regarding the plan's proposals for "interoperability," [redacted] suggested pursuing that goal where it made sense--to achieve economies of scale in procurement, to link systems where logic would dictate doing so, et cetera. He would not approve any outside access to DDO files. [redacted] suggested that insufficient justification seemed to exist for a separate science and technology computer facility. He recommended that the DDA make computer security a matter of high priority, suggesting that CIA should go ahead and get out in front in this area. He noted the need to face the archive issue at some point, as well as the requirement to support the survivability issue. With the above caveats, he again endorsed the thrust of the proposed plan and elicited comments. [redacted]

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8. Mr. Hineman asked if a backup computer facility had been considered. Mr. Fitzwater said that a conscious decision had been made not to have one because it would be prohibitively expensive. Computer tapes, however, could be run at other facilities. Mr. Gates generally agreed with [redacted] outlined approach. He expressed concern that senior levels did not pay enough attention to ADP planning and hoped that elevating this function to the Executive Director level would help ameliorate that problem. He emphasized that the individual on the Planning Staff should be knowledgeable about ongoing directorate activities to be able to provide senior managers an independent assessment of whether or not ADP resources were being invested wisely. He cautioned that one person might not be enough, but

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the Office of the Executive Director was the right place for the function. [ ]

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9. Mr. Fitzwater concurred with [ ] suggestions. He noted he had been putting a heavy emphasis on computer security. Mr. Stein agreed there was merit in looking at ADP from the top down and urged that users' needs be of paramount concern. He emphasized that "interoperability" should not be considered solely a DDO concern but an intelligence concern. Mr. Fitzwater advised that a significant percentage of the budget -- [ ] -- was devoted to ADP, making standardization of equipment extremely important. [ ]

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10. Mr. Taylor was dismayed by the tenor of the discussion, fearing it reflected a walking away from the problem. [ ] strongly disagreed, noting the work done to date would be incorporated in Agency-level planning, and he would personally ensure that this important issue received the senior-level attention it warranted. Reiterating that the job could be too much for one person, Mr. Gates suggested that person could chair a standing committee of senior ADP officers from each directorate to ensure that issues are surfaced to the Agency level. [ ] endorsed that idea (with the broader focus on information handling, not just ADP) and said that he would also like to see two positions in the Comptroller's office devoted to information handling issues. He also suggested that Mr. Fitzwater transfer one of the existing IHSA slots to his Directorate Management Staff for a DDA information handling focal point. [ ]

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11. [ ] reviewed the consensus reached: The proposed plan was endorsed as a general blueprint for the future, with caveats as noted; the IHSA function would be elevated to the Executive Director's Planning Staff; that Staff will provide the chairperson for a standing committee of senior directorate information handling/ADP specialists; the DDA is encouraged to establish an information handling referent on his Management Staff; and the Comptroller will be given one to two positions to focus on information handling matters. [ ] then adjourned the meeting. [ ]

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